

Camp Guernsey names new deputy

Camp goes joint with addition of Wyo. Air National Guard Airmen in the No. 2 position.



Lt. Col. Dave Herder, Wyo. Air National Guard, is the first Airman to hold a top position at Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center.

Lt. Col. David Herder, a member of the Wyoming Air National Guard, has been selected to be the deputy garrison commander for the Wyoming National Guard's Camp Guernsey Joint Training Facility.

Herder is the first Wyoming Air National Guard officer to hold a command position at the Guernsey, Wyo., training site.

"I believe he is the first Air National Guardsman in the nation

to hold a command position at any traditional Army National Guard training facility," Col. Steve Mount, Camp Guernsey garrison commander, said.

Mount said Herder's presence will add a steady level of Air National Guard input at the most critical levels of command, while helping maintain the overall excellence for which Camp Guernsey is known.

"We always talk about training our Soldiers and Airmen the way they will fight in combat – together," Mount said. "Now, we will set the example in command positions. We will lead our training site together, into the future of combat preparation."

"I'm not here to take Army green and paint it Air Force blue," Herder said.

"My job is to ensure all Wyoming Soldiers, Airmen and other customers have the best training facility to prepare them for the dangerous jobs they have. Training saves lives."

Herder began his career as a second lieutenant with the Wyoming Air National Guard in 1986 as a navigator. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 2004.

His combat service includes Operation Desert Storm, Operation Desert Shield and Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Herder has a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Wyoming.

84th Civil Support Team earns certification

The Wyoming National Guard's 84th Civil Support Team has been officially certified by the Department of Defense.

The certification to Congress by DoD means the team is fully ready to assist civil authorities in response to a domestic weapons of mass destruction incident and possesses the requisite skills, training and equipment to be proficient in all mission requirements.

The 22 person unit is staffed with both Army and Air National Guard command and control, communications, and weapons of mass destruction specialists who are full time Wyoming National Guardsmen.

"This is just one more example of the incredible contributions our Wyoming National Guard makes to the state and to the nation," said Maj. Gen. Ed Wright, Wyoming's adjutant general. "This unit will play an invaluable role in preventing and responding to any terrorist incidents on U.S. soil, and will help make us safer and more secure."

The 84th CST joins the nation's 47 other operational civil support teams in providing the force structure and this unique DoD capability and expertise to assist the governors in preparing for and responding to chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear incidents.

Joint volunteer conference a success

Volunteers explore bond between National Guard and Reserve families and civilian employers

By Deidre Forster
Executive Director
Wyoming Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

In the National Guard and Reserve Component world, the concept of a three-legged stool is typically used to describe the unmistakable tie between National Guard personnel, their families and their civilian employers.

That concept was explored jointly by volunteers who advocate on behalf of all those groups last weekend in Cheyenne during a joint Wyoming National Guard Family Readiness Program and Wyoming Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve conference.

Although both volunteer groups have been active in Wyoming for many years, this conference was the first time their training activities overlapped.

"I was especially pleased our two groups of volunteers, who may not know each other in their various Wyoming communities, could come together and network for the sake of our Soldiers and Airmen," said Bill Breckenridge, Wyoming National Guard Family Readiness Program director.

Janet Cowley, Wyoming Committee for Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve state chairwoman, said she was equally excited to have the groups come together and, hopefully take what they learned back to their communities.


"Instead of three legs, the stool should have four. Community is an equally important part of the support our National Guard and Reserve personnel, their families and employers, need to receive in order to be successful," she said. "Nowhere else but Wyoming could we bring ESGR and Family Readiness together and be this productive."

As part of the four-hour session, the more than 80 conference attendees received updates from the National Guard and Reserve Component commands within the state.

Lt. John Warnock, commanding officer of the U.S. Naval Operations Support Center in Cheyenne, told the assembled group although the Navy in Wyoming is a small presence, the work of the volunteers is just as important to his 60-Sailor command as to the 3,000-person presence of the Wyoming National Guard.

"When we deploy you guys mobilize. You step up and protect us back here," he said. "Without folks like you here, my Sailors would have to worry about their jobs and families the whole time, but they don't have to, because you're here. Really words can't thank you enough for what you do."

For information on how to become a volunteer for the Wyoming National Guard Family Readiness Program or the Wyoming Committee for Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve, contact

the Wyoming National Guard Family Readiness Program at (307) 772-5208 or the Wyoming Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve at (307) 772-5376. 



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Wyoming National Guard briefs and updates

WyARNG exceeds recruiting goal

The Wyoming Army National Guard met its recruiting mission this year after only six months.

The goal of 1,800 Soldiers, assigned in October 2006 by the National Guard Bureau, was met this month when Wyoming's force grew to 1,800 Soldiers. The command further plans to exceed the goal by at least 54 more Soldiers by Sept. 30, the end of the fiscal year.

"This is the fifth straight year that Wyoming will exceed its NGB-established end strength mission," said Col. Brian Harmsen, Wyoming Army National Guard deputy chief of staff for personnel. "We will continue toward meeting or exceeding our state-established goal of 1854 by October."

First additional C-130 arrives

The first of four additional C-130 Hercules aircraft promised to the Wyoming Air National Guard through the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process will arrive in Cheyenne Monday.

The C-130H3 comes to the 153rd Airlift Wing from the 302nd Airlift Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve, in Colorado Springs, Colo. The aircraft was built in 1993, one year later than the eight C-130s the Wyoming Air National Guard currently operates.

"While the aircraft instrumentation is similar, we will need to upgrade various aspects of our new Herk to the same standards of the rest of our fleet," said Lt. Col. Jerry Champlin, director of operations for the Wyoming Air National Guard's 187th Airlift Squadron.

Three other C-130 aircraft are scheduled to arrive before the end of 2007, giving the Wyoming Air National Guard 12 C-130 aircraft.

Wright named as next Army ATAG

Col. Kathy Wright will assume command of the Wyoming Army National Guard, in January 2009, assuming the duties of the assistant adjutant general – Army from Brig. Gen. Olin Oedekoven.

She will be the first woman to take command of the Wyoming Army National Guard and the second woman in the Wyoming National Guard to hold that rank and command status.

Wright will be the second woman in the Wyoming National Guard to hold that rank and command status. Brig. Gen. Jennene Nelsen was the

assistant adjutant general – Air and the first woman general in the Wyoming National Guard, in 1995.

Soldiers scheduled for OEF deployment

The Wyoming Army National Guard is sending 16 Soldiers to serve as an Embedded Training Team for the Afghanistan National Army.

The team is made up of Soldiers from the Wyoming Army National Guard.

They will report to Cheyenne on April 5 for their initial processing. The Soldiers pre-deployment training will be at Fort Riley, Kan., from there they will deploy to Afghanistan to serve as trainers and mentors for senior Afghan army officials.

The 16 Soldiers mobilized will be on federal active duty orders for 400 days. The period of active duty can be extended, based on the U.S. Army's requirements

Vets Commission director named

Retired Col. Larry D. Barttelbort was selected as the Wyoming Veterans Commission executive director.

He was selected through a competitive hiring process that included a panel interview with the Wyoming Veterans' Commission and a follow-on interview with the Adjutant General, Wyoming Veterans' Commission chairman and a representative of Gov. Freudenthal's office.

"I look forward to rolling up my sleeves and supporting the work of the commission and therefore, helping Wyoming's veterans," Barttelbort said.

Henson assumes command of 153rd MSG

Col. Debbie Henson assumed command of the Wyoming Air National Guard Mission Support Group in a ceremony Feb. 3, at the Wyoming Air National Guard base, in Cheyenne.

The 153rd Mission Support Group provides the 153rd Airlift Wing with the base infrastructure and services support needed to produce combat ready units and personnel. As Mission Support Group commander, Henson will serve as commander in charge of the 153rd Civil Engineering Squadron, Security Forces Squadron, Logistics Readiness Squadron, Services Flight, Communications Flight, Mission Support Flight, and Aerial Port Flight.

Henson takes command from Col. Rita Meyer.

Wyo. Airmen drop hay to Colo. cattle

During a two-day mission to southeastern Colorado, the Wyoming Air National Guard dropped more than 88,000 pounds of hay to 2,510 head of stranded cattle.

One C-130 and 10 Airmen arrived at Pueblo Jan. 3 to assist the Colorado National Guard with feeding cattle, near Lamar, that had been stranded due to two winter storms.


Mission Commander Lt. Col. Wade Tveter, said the C-130 crew made 12 bale drops on Jan. 3 and 32 drops Jan. 4. "There are a lot of cattle out there and every day they go without feed they are dropping weight. We hope we made a difference."

The C-130 held six 1,700 pound bales of hay per load. Each of the 4-foot by 8-foot bales were loaded onto a plywood sheet on the floor of the C-130 and dropped via the rear cargo door normally from 500 feet above the ground, depending on the terrain. The bales broke apart on impact.

The unit was tasked to assist by Gov. Dave Freudenthal after his office received a request for assistance from Colorado.



Wyoming Air National Guard loadmasters watch a 1,700-pound hay bale break apart near a group of stranded cattle in southeastern Colorado moments after dropping it from the back of a C-130 cargo plane.

The WyANG last dropped hay to stranded cattle in New Mexico, Dec. 30, 1997 to Jan. 5 1998. 

WyARNG Soldiers dig out Rock River

By Master Sgt. Trudy Woodcock
Public Affairs Specialist
Wyoming National Guard

It wasn't Katrina, but it might as well have been as far as the residents of Rock River were concerned.

It all started around Christmas with a big snow storm,



Carol Bartholomew talks with Sgt. 1st Class Devin Worman as Soldiers for Wyoming Army National Guard's 133rd Engineers dig out residents of Rock River Wyoming after recent snow storms have left the town buried under snow drifts as tall as some houses.

then the wind – gusts of 90 mph blowing old and new snow. One resident said it was so bad they even had a train derailment the first part of January and they just haven't been able to get ahead of the snow accumulation.

On Feb. 6, Rock River and Albany County asked the governor to send the Wyoming National Guard to help. The Guard responded with 15 Soldiers and a variety of equipment for a three-day snow removal mission.

Carol Bartholomew, a Rock River resident, said the streets were so bad she had to leave her car close to the highway and walk to her house because she couldn't get close to it.

Sgt. 1st Class Devin Worman, noncommissioned officer in charge, said the residents have been wonderful. While there, the unit has been able to get all of the side streets and driveways cleared, enabling emergency vehicles access to the residents and fire hydrants. The crew had moved more than 300 dump truck loads of snow by the third day.

The Soldiers were also able to dig out propane tanks so they could be filled and provide heat again. Local school children even asked the Soldiers to have lunch with them and then insisted on getting all of the Soldiers' autographs. 